



## Letter to the Editor

## Facts vs conjecture

Sir,

Apropos the review article entitled 'The Crucifixion of Jesus: review of hypothesized mechanisms of death and implications of shock and trauma-induced coagulopathy' [Bergnon, JW. *J For Legal Med*; 19 (20120): 113–116].

The author has brilliantly tried to sail through the time backwards and reach the most probable cause of death of Jesus of Nazareth. This does not seem to be an easy task on the face of ritualized trauma preceding crucifixion on Tau cross.<sup>1</sup> Some of the basic theories linked to his death and elaborated in the review article has been the (a) The "Broken Heart" hypothesis (b) Pulmonary embolism hypothesis (c) Suspension trauma hypothesis (d) Suffocation hypothesis (e) Fatal stab wound hypothesis (f) The Shock hypothesis, and (g) Trauma-induced coagulopathy. Out of all these probationary theories the trauma-induced coagulopathy holds sway though contributory elements for death would be provided by extended torture, suspension and ritual practice in no small measure.

For the believers in the Shroud of Turin the excellent bloody imprint of human physical structure can be caused only by excessive seepage of blood through multiple trauma sites all over the body. This is possible only by rational explanation of trauma-induced coagulopathy. At the same time it is worth mentioning that simple forensic determinants negated post-crucified imprint on the shroud, like absence of rigor mortis, flexion of knee and casually crossed over position of both hands over the lower part of abdomen.<sup>2</sup>

## Conflict of interest

No conflict of interest.

## References

1. Gersman S. Did Jesus die of a broken heart? *Calvin Forum* 1948;**14**:163–7.
2. Husain M. Shroud of Turin: a contradiction to the theory of crucifixion. *JIMA* 2000;**32**:96–9.

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